

**LONG TERM CARE SUPPORTS & SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMISSION**

MAY 21, 2007

Capitol View Building, Conference Rooms A, B & C

MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE: Robert Allison, RoAnne Chaney, Christine Chesny, Andrew Farmer, William Gutos, Dohn Hoyle, Sandra Kilde, Yolanda McKinney, Marsha Moers, Denise Rabidoux, Jon Reardon, Hollis Turnham, Toni Wilson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Linda Ewing, William Mania, Reverend Charles Williams II

What's Happened

I. Organizing Ourselves

- A. INTRODUCTIONS** – Farmer presided as Chair of the Commission and initiated introductions.
- B. APPROVAL OF APRIL DRAFT MINUTES** – Motion to approve Minutes by Reardon, second by Chaney. Minutes adopted.
- C. APPROVAL OF MAY AGENDA** – Motion to approve by Chesny, second by Hoyle. Motion passed by voice vote.
- D. REPORT OF CHAIR** –
 - 1. Farmer provided the report by referencing the Executive Committee minutes.
 - 2. Farmer continues to meet one-on-one with Commissioners.

3. The Operational Guidelines, consolidated from previous comments, was distributed for reference. Changes may be made, as necessary.
4. Workgroups were determined and possible chairs named. More on this later in the minutes.
5. It was decided to revisit the Single Points of Entry after they have had more time to develop operationally.
6. The Commission is continuing to explore the possibility of holding a meeting in Detroit. Wilson indicated that Hannah House may be available. More information to come.

What's Happening

II. External Systems Monitoring & Evaluation

A. OLTCSS DIRECTOR'S REPORT -

1. The OLTCSS has requested exemptions to the hiring freeze for six positions (mostly from grant funds). Two are the required project managers for the Systems Transformation Grant and the Deficit Reduction Act/Money Follows the Person Grant.
2. State Budget & Appropriations Status - See B. below
3. Other Timely Issues
 - Single Point of Entry Legislative report has been submitted to the Legislature. The administrative report to the Governor, required by the Executive Order, is still being prepared. The Commission wants to review this report, as it is based, in part, on the progress reports completed by the Commission workgroups in preparation for the February retreat.

- It was asked if the OLTCCSS was going to plan another Long-Term Care Conference. Head indicated this may be possible for spring 2008; however, planning needed to start this September.
 - Head provided testimony at the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee meeting last week. Reardon requested clarification on the slides and the use of the CMS Nursing Home Market Basket Index as the best indicator of costs. Head indicated the deficit is trended to be larger than expected for next year.
4. Waiver Renewal - The MIChoice waiver renewal stakeholders group continues to meet. One goal is to expand self-determination statewide. Wrap-around services are still being considered. The renewal is also trying to reduce the administrative burden for waiver agents. Due to time frames, writing of the renewal application has already started. This is a template from CMS. It is anticipated that the application will be submitted in June. Future amendments are intended to include case mix reimbursement and the provision of waiver services in licensed specialized residential homes. Given time frames, review of the application by the Commission is not possible. Several of the Commissioners participate in the stakeholders forum and there is opportunity for the Commissioners to advocate to the Legislature for more funding of the waiver. Ablan requested clarification on the ability to increase the number of waiver slots, if more funding were provided. Head indicated this is a very easy waiver amendment.

B. June 1 Provider Rates Cut -

1. Fitton (Medical Services Administration) provided an update on the budget reductions. MSA Bulletin 07-23 provides policy. It is basically a 6% across-the-board reduction in fees. While it is recognized this is not good policy, it is necessary, in the absence of further direction from the Legislature, in order to balance the budget. The letter to the nursing facilities has already been distributed with their new rates. Contracts (e.g., MIChoice contracts) indicate a 6% reduction in the remaining 4 months of their contract. The home help program was spared because it did not provide enough aggregate savings to warrant the reduction.

The continuing cash flow crisis is being addressed by speeding up provider tax collections and delaying payments.

The fee reduction does not affect the nursing facility transition services, MI Choice special MOUs, the personal care supplement paid to adult foster care homes and homes for the aged or private duty nursing services.

The affect on the community mental health wage pass-through is unknown.

The Medical Services Administration has received few comments on the bulletin. Several professional organizations have responded, but grass -roots comments are needed. Commissioners were encouraged to assist their constituency in responding to the bulletin/reductions.

MSA Bulletin 07-23, that announces the reduction, does not include an end-date. It is assumed this policy will remain in effect until the 2008 policy is in effect.

Gutos reminded Commissioners to use the AARP Medicaid Preservation Hotline. This is a national phone line for consumers to express concerns regarding Medicaid.

It was noted that the financial status of Michigan does mean more federal match for Medicaid services. Currently, the federal match for Medicaid services is 56.38% (for every dollar spend, 56.38 cents is federal funds). For 2008, the match will be 58.2%; for 2009, the match is predicted to be 59.6%.

2. Several of the Commissioners expressed concern regarding the impact of this reduction on their services, staff, and consumers. It was noted that the reduction may result in the loss of lower cost providers thus requiring consumers to use the higher cost ones. It was further noted that the waiver waiting grow, resulting in a lengthier wait for MIChoice enrollment.

Ablan indicated that the Area Agencies on Aging Association had written a letter to the Legislature indicating support of increased revenues, such as a tax increase, for public services.

C. Commission Workgroups Proposal

1. Overviews - It is expected that each Commissioner will participate in at least one workgroup. Leaders consistently indicate that they will contact individuals involved in the original Task Force workgroups for input and participation in this round as well.
 - a. Workforce – Workgroup Lead: Hollis Turnham. Group will build on Direct Care Workforce Initiative; focus on

statistics and research as there is little in existence now; obtain basic information and demographics. They have already gained much information from the AFC/HA background checks.

- b. Prevention – Workgroup Lead: RoAnne Chaney. RoAnne provided a draft of their progress report showing current activity.
- c. Finance – Workgroup Leads: Christine Chesny, Jon Reardon. No additional activity since progress report was drafted. The Systems Transformation Grant, Strategic Plan and MIChoice renewal include some desirable financing changes.
- d. Quality – Workgroup Lead: Sarah Slocum. Continue to work on the draft progress report. Coordinate with other workgroups as they all seem to have a quality component. Need to develop their own charge, to include consumer driven and consumer defined elements. Innovations and the role of regulations will also be considered. Develop base levels. Need to be sure they have consumers residing in nursing facilities on the workgroup.
- e. Public Education – Workgroup Leads: Toni Wilson, Robert Allison. The workgroup will go to where the consumers are to present their message and obtain their input. This workgroup also needs to coordinate with the other groups. It is difficult to contact home health participants as many are not as mobile as others. Use of various media will be employed. It is anticipated that the Commissioners will make use of local media as outreach, as well. Other workgroups need to keep this workgroup informed.

- f. Person-Centered Planning – Workgroup Leads: Dohn Hoyle, Denise Rabidoux. Draft PCP Practice and Policy Guidelines have been distributed to an OLTCSS workgroup for review and comment. Commissioners will be provided a copy for review. One goal of the Commission’s workgroup is to translate this policy to statute. This group must include facility providers for their input. There is a need to interpret the Public Health Code into person-centered planning concepts. Several facilities should be used as pilots for person-centered planning.

D. Public Comment -

1. Robert Stein (Michigan Assisted Living Association) - Provided testimony to the need to include licensed specialized residential settings for MIChoice services. Discussion regarding this option followed. It is anticipated this will be an amendment submitted in October 2007 implementation in January 2008. The MIChoice Waiver Renewal Assisted Living Workgroup will provide an update at the next meeting.
2. Sara Duris (Alzheimers Association) - Provided testimony to the growing need for quality dementia care. There are new facts and figures at their website: www.alz.org .

What We're Going to Do About It?

III. Commission Advocacy & Action

- A. Waiver Renewal** - A status report of the renewal package should be provided by the Office. The Commission should be considering items to be included in future amendments such as case mix. Universal assessment tool. Such items are too late for inclusion in the actual renewal package.
- B. Canceling August Meeting** - This was tabled until June.
- C. Advocacy & Actions** - Commissioners should encourage the constituency at the grass roots level to provide comments and reactions to the budget issues. The April 2 letter could be used as a prototype. It was noted that the Mayor of Holland (Chair of the Michigan Mayors Association) is a good speaker regarding the budget issues.

IV. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS –

- There was discussion regarding the LTC Connections of Detroit (SPE) and their Governing Board meeting. Wilson raised concerns regarding the composition of the consumer governing boards for the SPEs and their roles in relationship to the partners they may represent.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn by Turnham, second by Chaney.

NEXT MEETINGS -

June 25, 2007 , Capitol View Conference Rooms A-C 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

July 23, 2007 , Capitol View Conference Rooms A-C 1:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.